



Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
FSM, State of Chuuk
FSM, State of Kosrae
FSM, State of Pohnpei
FSM, State of Yap
Island of Guam
Republic of Kiribati
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Nauru
Republic of Palau
State of Hawaii

A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 41-GA-03

“Relative to expressing support of H.R. 949 and H.R. 8327 introduced in the United States House of Representatives which seeks to amend Title XI of the Social Security Act to eliminate the general Medicaid funding limitations for the territories of the United States and to provide for the redistribution of unused territorial cap amounts under the Medicaid program, respectively.”

1 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid plays a critical role in providing access to health services for
2 low-income individuals and families in the U.S. territories and historically, however
3 funding for Medicaid in the territories has been insufficient; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico,
5 and the U.S. Virgin Islands are subject to a hard, statutory limit on federal Medicaid
6 support, unlike the 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam have elected to cover all the
8 Compacts of Free Association (COFA) citizens in their Medicaid programs, if they meet
9 the eligibility requirements; and

10 **WHEREAS**, this cap leads to more stringent Medicaid eligibility limits, less
11 comprehensive Medicaid benefits to participants and inadequate payments to clinicians and
12 hospitals and ultimately means that preventive care and treatment for the poorest
13 Americans in the insular areas will always be less available than for Americans elsewhere;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, providing reliable and sustainable funding for U.S. territories is
16 essential to building public health systems for residents to utilize within their communities
17 without having to seek expensive care off-island or in other jurisdictions; and

18 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 949, “Insular Area Medicaid Parity Act”, introduced by the Hon.
19 Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, the Northern Mariana Islands' Delegate in Congress and

1 co-sponsored by James C. Moylan, Guam’s Delegate in Congress, along with 67 other
2 members, is a critical step towards advancing health equity in the territories; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress has also acknowledged this inequity by providing
4 more Medicaid funding for the insular areas by substantially lifting the cap through P.L.
5 116-94, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020; Provisions in P.L. 116-127, the
6 Families First Coronavirus Response Act created equity between the states and the insular
7 areas with respect to the increase in the federal-local match for Medicaid; the Families
8 First, also, provided additional federal dollars for the insular area Medicaid programs; and
9 more recently, P.L. 117-328, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, made
10 permanent the 83 percent federal match for Medicaid for the smaller territories; and

11 **WHEREAS**, by repealing the cap, it is an important step toward achieving health
12 equity and will not only ensure that there are sufficient resources to address the
13 unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic, but more importantly to set up
14 the healthcare systems in the insular areas to respond to the next public health challenge,
15 whatever it may be; and

16 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 8327, “Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for the Insular Areas Act of
17 2024”, introduced by the Hon. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, the Northern Mariana
18 Islands’ Delegate in Congress and co-sponsored by the Hon. James C. Moylan, Guam’s
19 Delegate in Congress, and the Hon. Aumua Amata C. Radewagen, American Samoa’s
20 Delegate in Congress, would protect access to health insurance for our most vulnerable
21 citizens in the territories; and

22 **WHEREAS**, specifically, H.R. 8327 would authorize the redistribution of unused
23 Medicaid block grant funding to address shortfalls in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam,
24 American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and


25 **WHEREAS**, block grant programs are fundamentally inadequate in addressing
26 emergencies because of their fixed funding structure and the absence of equivalent
27 contingency measures; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the well-being of our people and the care to which they have access to,
29 regardless of their geographical location, must be a top priority; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 41st General
2 Assembly, Republic of Palau, August 12-13, 2024, does hereby express its support for the
3 passage of H.R. 949 and H.R. 8327 introduced in the United States House of
4 Representatives, which seeks to amend Title XI of the Social Security Act to eliminate the
5 general Medicaid funding limitations for the territories of the United States and to provide
6 for the redistribution of unused territorial cap amounts under the Medicaid program,
7 respectively; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL
9 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted
10 to the to the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, the Northern Mariana Islands'
11 Delegate to the United States Congress; to the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam's
12 Delegate to the United States Congress; to the Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair
13 of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce; and to the Chief Executives and
14 Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific
15 Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 13TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.


EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
ACTING PRESIDENT


VICTOR BAMOG
ACTING SECRETARY

